

Appln. Serial No. 10/766,200
Amendment Dated January 4, 2007
Reply to Office Action Mailed October 4, 2006

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REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 4, 2006, claims 1-16 and 19-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0101020 (Matsushige); claim 17 was rejected under § 103 over Matsushige in view of Wikipedia (voltage divider rule); claim 18 was rejected under § 103 over Matsushige in view of Wikipedia (potentiometer); and claim 25 was rejected under § 101.

Claim 25 has been amended to address the § 101 rejection. Claim 25 now recites an article comprising at least one *computer-readable* storage medium containing instructions that when executed cause a *computer* to perform the recited tasks. Therefore, withdrawal of the § 101 rejection is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the Wikipedia references are dated in 2006 (after the filing date of the present application) and thus have been improperly cited as prior art references.

It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Matsushige. Claim 1 recites a method of testing a computer, where the method includes the following: during a test sequence, adjusting a reference voltage signal from a first level to a second level in response to an output from a controller in the computer, the first level being a level of the reference voltage signal during *normal operation* of the computer; and during the test sequence, testing operation of a receiver in the computer with the reference voltage signal set at the second level, an input of the receiver being connected to the reference voltage signal, and another input of the receiver being connected to a *single-ended signal* that is processed by the receiver *both during the normal operation and the test sequence*.

In contrast to the subject matter of claim 1, Matsushige discloses margin testing of a fiber channel, in which a *differential signal transmission path* is provided. Matsushige, ¶ [0070]. The differential signal path is illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 of Matsushige, where each differential signal path is connected between a corresponding pair of a transmitter and a receiver. To perform margin testing in Matsushige, control signals are applied such that a reference voltage Vref and a threshold voltage Ldet are connected to respective signal lines of a differential signal path. However, during normal operation, the control signals are turned off such that Vref and Ldet are not provided onto the differential signal path. Matsushige, ¶¶ [0063], [0076].

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Therefore, it is clear that Matsushige does not disclose testing operation of a receiver with a reference voltage signal set at a second level, where the inputs of the receiver are connected to the reference voltage signal and to a single-ended signal that is processed by the receiver both during the normal operation and the test sequence. Matsushige discloses the testing of receivers that process differential signals provided over differential signal paths; Matsushige does not disclose testing a receiver that processes a single-ended signal both during normal operation and a test sequence. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Matsushige.

Independent claim 25 is similarly allowable over Matsushige.

With respect to independent claim 11, Matsushige does not disclose the following combination of elements: a receiver having a first input connected to a reference voltage signal and a second input connected to a single-ended signal that is processed during normal operation of the computer system; and test software to perform a diagnostic test with the reference voltage signal at the second voltage level to test operation of the receiver to perform margin testing of the receiver with respect to the *single-ended signal*. As discussed above, Matsushige teaches the testing of receivers that process differential signals provided over differential signal paths.

Independent claims 20 and 21 are similarly allowable.

Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims. In view of the allowability of base claims over Matsushige, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejections of claims 17 and 18 have been overcome. Also, as noted above, the Wikipedia references were improperly used as prior art.

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Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 (200313849-1).

Respectfully submitted,

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